

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 19, 2020

The Honorable Steven T. Mnuchin
Secretary of the Treasury
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Secretary Mnuchin,

We are writing to ask that you formally and officially extend the deadline for individuals and businesses to file their 2019 taxes to, at a minimum, July 15. Your current guidance allows taxpayers such an extension only for payments, but the trajectory of the spread of COVID-19, and the continued precipitous economic downturn, require that the filing deadline also be moved back automatically for all filers. We worry that the existing plan is unduly cumbersome to Americans already faced with economic uncertainty.

The ongoing public health threat from the COVID-19 pandemic has created widespread economic turmoil for American taxpayers, who are potentially facing a prolonged period without income or revenue. Extending the tax filing deadline will allow taxpayers time to accurately file and prepare for payments in the face of increasing economic uncertainty.

In addition, it will provide much-needed relief to elderly and low-income tax filers. Many free tax-preparation sites for underserved populations, such as the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA), are shut down. A deferral of tax payments may not help these individuals, and with free tax-preparation sites shut down, these Americans will not get the help they need to timely and accurately file.

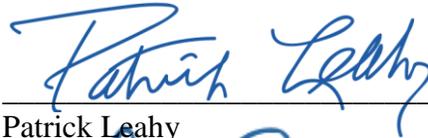
Several states are basing their individual filing deadlines on the IRS's deadline and are therefore still requiring returns to be submitted by April 15. It would help many American taxpayers if they knew they could file on July 15 without needing to ask for extensions or worry about late payments.

With the rest of the federal government is taking measures to decrease the spread of COVID-19 and help workers and families during this difficult economic time, we would hope that the Department of Treasury and Internal Revenue Service would ease the uncertainty for American taxpayers and extend the filing deadline for at least 90 days.

Sincerely,



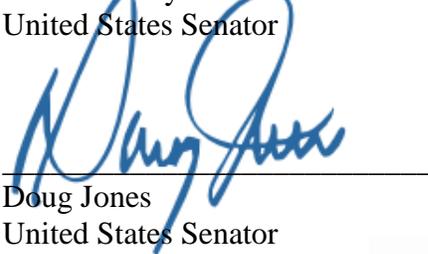
Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator



Patrick Leahy
United States Senator



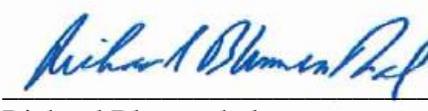
Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Doug Jones
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



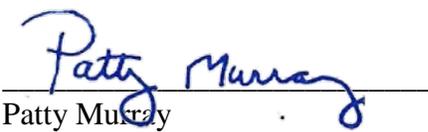
Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

/s/ Chris Van Hollen

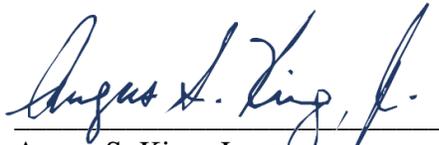
Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Patty Murray
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



Tina Smith
United States Senator



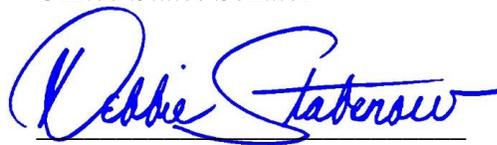
Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator

/s/ Martin Heinrich

Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator

/s/ Jack Reed

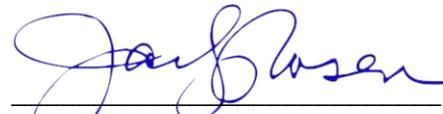
Jack Reed
United States Senator



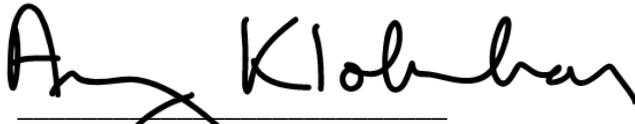
Jon Tester
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator